

SPORTING NEWS ALL COMMENT

EDITED BY
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TO CHANGE GRIDIRON RULES.

More Open Play Would Improve Football, All Experts Agree.

PARKER.

There is every indication that the style of football that has been so long condemned as brutal will have its final exploitation on the diamond to-day, both in the East and West, with the Harvard-Yale game to-day, and the Michigan-Chicago game on Thanksgiving Day. Gradually all efforts have been tending toward more open play and less possibility of serious physical disablement.

With President Roosevelt and the presidents of a score of big colleges crying against the game as it is now played there seems no doubt that the rules for next year will provide more open play and eliminate many of the roughest features of the game.

Rumors have sprung from Cambridge that in event of the defeat of the Crimson football will be abolished from the athletic curriculum of that university forever. With this proviso, however, that the game be played along different lines.

Coach Reid, of Harvard, has come forward, advocating more open play. Other coaches have coincided with the opinion of President Roosevelt, which calls for more open play, and as far as possible the abolishment of the rough play that has characterized so many of the big games recently.

In fact the whole football world, from the spectator's standpoint, would welcome open play, as it affords a much better view of what is actually taking place on the gridiron. As long as much of the game is hidden behind the back of the head of the man with the ball, charges of brutality will be well founded.

Open play with more individual opportunities and more finesse in team work would not only be more spectacular, but would also tend to reduce the number of collisions and incur injuries of a serious character. Next season there will undoubtedly be a revolutionized game of American football seen on all the gridirons of the East and eventually in the West as well.

BASEBALL LAW MAY KEEP PITCHERS IN COMMITION

Glass Arms and the Like from Which They Suffer Due to Out of Season Work—Fans' Gossip.

BY ROZEMAN BULGER.

In about three months you'll hear a awful howl from more than a score of big league pitchers who will have glass arms in their arms from shoulder to knuckle. Many of them will kick about the weather, many about the grounds, and some will demand a special made-to-order day on which they shall do their turn. And it will all come about from these barnstorming trips in the fall. These afternoon chills sink deep into the pitcher's arm, but until spring he can't get it out.

Unless some legislation is enacted by which pitchers are forbidden from injuring themselves in barnstorming trips out of season there are going to be many heartbroken managers when the real race begins. All of them will be carrying more or less dead wood.

Owners and officials of the various leagues have not been slow to see the danger threatening the pitchers, and already there are plans on foot to adopt legislation looking to their protection.

Ball Players Inconsistent.

A ball player is a curious piece of humanity. He complains bitterly of having to play in cold weather during the spring, but has no hesitancy about taking a chance in the fall when he gets a share of the barnstorming receipts. It sounds hard to blame a ball player for making money on his own account if he can do so, but it should also be remembered that it is a hardship on the club which is paying for his services on the theory that he is in good condition.

If the rule of equity were applied, the ball player should suffer the consequences of his own reckless doings. But he does not. As pitchers are scarce, the manager holds on to him, and sometimes carries him for a month or more at full pay when he is absolutely in no fit condition for work.

Highlanders' Grounds Injurious.

In this connection it might be interesting to fans to know that ball players throughout the big leagues regard the American League ground at New York as the most injurious ground to players in the country. The pitchers claim that the cold winds in the spring and fall which sweep across from the Hudson to the Harlem River, ruin their arms and put them out of commission all season.

If a pitcher gets his arm in a sweat and allows it to get chilled, a severe muscular cold sets in and he has what is technically known as a "glass arm." The name comes from the suggestion of stiffness. To get these muscular kinks out requires a long time. Ambrose Putnam claims that his arm was injured by these winds last spring, and Chisholm's trouble is said to have resulted from working in the rain on the opening day. Powell's arm is also said to have gone bad that way and so on down the line.

This trouble with the Highlander grounds may be all imagination, but

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Yale Victory Over Harvard Would Make Elis Champions of the East.

A MODIFIED SCRIMMAGE.



Football history for the East will be complete for the season of 1905 with the conclusion of the Yale-Harvard game to-day. Experts have considered it a foregone conclusion of a Yale victory, making the Elis undisputed champions of all the big college elvens in this section of the country.

The Pennsylvania-Columbia game does not really figure in the final summary, as the New Yorkers were so thoroughly overwhelmed by the Blue. Princeton suffered two defeats, one by Dartmouth and one by the New Haven Quakers. With the exception of her victory over the Crimson the Quakers have done nothing this year that can class them with Yale.

Before meeting Harvard the Red and Blue had several very narrow escapes, and it is even doubtful if they could come off victorious in a battle with Princeton, considering the records of both teams. A Yale victory over the Cambridge team, in signal fashion, puts Pennsylvania in a position for second place. Dartmouth, however, considering her defeat of Princeton and her tie with Harvard, may well boast that the Philadelphia has only a narrow margin the best of it in that they defeated Harvard.

Cornell is altogether out of the final computation, whereas Brown University on her record stands well up with the leaders. Yale having made a much smaller score (10-0) against the Providence youths than in her sweeping victory over the plucky Princetonians.

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